

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:03 p.m. in the college gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to electronics engineering student Christy Grabowski; Paul Kinser, provost, west campus, Valencia Community College; Bob Koch, vice president for operations, Lucent Technologies; and Tom Christian, president, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2000.

Statement on the 1997 North Atlantic Treaty Organization Summit

September 6, 1996

Today, at my request, Secretary of State Christopher called for a NATO summit next year to take the next steps on adapting and enlarging the NATO Alliance and preparing it for the 21st century.

At the last NATO summit in Brussels in January 1994, my fellow NATO heads of government and I set out an ambitious agenda to adapt NATO to the opportunities and challenges of the new century. We agreed that NATO would take on new roles and missions in pursuit of peace. We agreed to strengthen the European pillar of the Alliance to promote greater European responsibility and burdensharing. And we agreed to reach out to Europe's new and emerging democracies through creation of the Partnership For Peace and by moving, steadily and deliberately, to add new members to the Alliance. We were determined to end the cold war division of Europe and create, for the first time in history, a Europe united in peace, democracy, and free market prosperity.

The results are impressive: NATO already has taken on new roles and missions. The Alliance's successful IFOR operation in Bosnia, undertaken with broad participation by non-NATO members, has brought peace to that beleaguered country. NATO is reshaping its military side to make it better able to take on new missions while strengthening the European defense role within the Alliance. We are continuing to deepen and enhance the Partnership For Peace, which has created unprecedented links between NATO and the nations of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. And we are intensifying our efforts to build a strong partnership between NATO and Russia.

NATO has also been making great strides in its preparations for enlargement, holding intensive consultations on the requirements and responsibilities of membership with many of Europe's emerging new democracies.

I believe that NATO heads of government should meet in the spring or early summer of next year to take the next decisive steps. This summit would invite the first group of aspiring NATO members to begin accession talks to bring them into the Alliance. It would announce a major enhancement of the Partnership For Peace. It would also finalize work in adapting the NATO military structure to provide a more distinctive European role with full Allied participation. Finally, the summit would, we hope, confirm establishment of a broad and deep NATO-Russia partnership for the long term.

I call on my fellow NATO heads of government to join with me in this endeavor. Together, we can make this summit the most historic and forward-looking in the history of our NATO Alliance, furthering our vision of an undivided Europe, and building a bridge of peace and security, democracy and prosperity to the 21st century.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 31

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton, continuing a weekend campaign bus tour, traveled from Paducah, KY, to Troy and Dyersburg, TN. In the afternoon, they traveled to Covington, TN.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Memphis, TN, ending a weekend campaign bus tour. Later, they traveled to Little Rock, AR.

September 1

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with the following world leaders concerning the situation in northern Iraq: Prime Minister John Major of Great Britain, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Hussein of Jordan, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, and President Jacques Chirac of France.

September 2

In the morning, the President attended a breakfast with members of the National Baptist Association of America at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock, AR. Later, he traveled to Green Bay and DePere, WI.

In the afternoon, while in DePere, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jacques Chirac of France concerning the situation in northern Iraq. Later in the afternoon, the President returned to Green Bay, where he visited the Green Bay Packers football team at Lambeau Field. He then traveled to Milwaukee, WI.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

Both upon his arrival in Milwaukee, WI, and while en route to Washington, DC, the President had telephone conversations with Chief of Staff Leon E. Panetta and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake concerning the situation in northern Iraq.

September 3

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Senate majority leader Trent Lott, Senate minority leader Thomas A. Daschle, House minority leader Richard A. Gephardt, and Republican Presidential nominee Bob Dole concerning the situation in northern Iraq.

The President announced the reappointment of Mary Lucille Jordan as Chair and member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. Ms. Jordan will serve as a recess appointee.

September 4

In the morning, the President was treated by Bethesda Naval Hospital dermatologists who performed a simple outpatient procedure in the White House.

In the morning, the President attended a reception for Representative Tim Johnson at the Hay Adams Hotel.

September 5

In the morning, the President traveled to Tampa, FL. In the afternoon, he traveled to Miami, and then to Bal Harbour, FL.

In the evening, the President attended a Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee reception at the Sheraton Bal Harbour Hotel. Later, he traveled to Orlando, FL.

The President announced he will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom at a White House ceremony on September 9 to the following individuals: Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, James Brady, Millard Fuller, David Hamburg, John H. Johnson, Eugene Lang, Jan Nowak-Jezioranski, Antonia Pantoja, Rosa Parks, Ginetta Sagan, and Morris Udall.

September 6

In the afternoon, the President attended a reception and luncheon for the Democratic National Committee and the Florida Democratic Party at Church Street Station. Later, he traveled to Panama City, FL, where he addressed the students of Gulf Coast Community College.

In the evening, the President attended a reception for Representative Pete Peterson in the Bay Gulf Franklin Room at Gulf Coast Community College. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in North Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement recovery efforts in the areas struck by Hurricane Fran beginning on September 5 and continuing. The President also instructed Federal Emergency Management Agency Director James Lee Witt and a team of senior administration officials to travel to the region to assess damage and to ensure that all necessary Federal aid begins to flow to the region immediately.

The President declared a major disaster in Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement recovery efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Fran and associated severe storm conditions, including high winds, tornadoes, wind-driven rain, and river and flash flooding, beginning on September 5 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alan H. Flanigan to be Deputy Director for Supply Reduction at the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 3

Wyche Fowler, Jr.,
of Georgia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

John E. Higgins, Jr.,
of Maryland, to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years expiring August 27, 2001, vice Charles I. Cohen, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Mary Lucille Jordan,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of 6 years expiring August 30, 2002 (reappointment), to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Heidi H. Schulman,
of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2002, vice Martha Buchanan, resigned, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Kevin L. Thurm,
of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Walter D. Broadnax, resigned, to which position he was

appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Submitted September 5

Donald M. Middlebrooks,
of Florida, to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, vice James W. Kehoe, retired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 31

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the Iraqi attack on Irbil

Released September 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry and Clinton/Gore '96 Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Released September 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released September 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry and NSC Senior Director for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Mark Parris on the situation in Iraq

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the second strike against Iraqi air defense sites

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the inauguration of Liberian Council of State Chairperson Ruth Perry

Released September 4

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Mike McCurry